ces or Degree in Engineering or technology or equivalent.

Request to enhance allocation of kerosene to Orissa

7576. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the kerosene allotted to the State of Orissa at present is not adequate:

(b) whether Government of Orissa has asked the Central Government to enhance the monthly allocation of Superior kerosene oil; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Requests are received from various State Governments including Orissa for additional allocation of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) from time to time. However, on account of constraint of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved. It is not possible to meet the entire demand of the State Governments. Nevertheless in view of the relatively lower level of allocations of SKO to Orissa in the past, an increase of 9.7 per cent over the previous year's allocation has been made for the year 1995-96 in the case of Orissa. Central Government has allowed the import and marketing of SKO by private parties under the Parallel Marketing Scheme with a view to augment availability of the product in the country. Allocations of PDS commodities are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the entire requirements of any State|UT including Orissa.

Consumer items supplied through PDS below market price

7577. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the consumer items that are being supplied through the Public Distribution System at below market prices giving the prices of those items prevailing in the market including Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar and the ones at which the same are sold through the Public Distribution System;

(b) the details of the hoarders blackmarketeers indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act against whom stringent action is being taken;

(c) the reasons for not taking any action against the Super Bazar which has been indulging in unfair practices;

(d) the details of items whose selling rates where unfairly increased by the Super Bazar; and

(e) what action does Government propose to take against the Super Bazar in regard to the above?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Super Bazar is not dealing with any consumer item through Public Distribution System. Kendriya Bhandar is dealing with the items of wheat, rice sugar and palmolein oil in its fair price shops through PDS. Kendriya Bhandar has reported that the prevailing prices in its fair price shops and in the open sales in its branches are as under:—

Item	Price in the fair price shops	Price in the open sale in the branch stores
1. Wheat	Rs. 4.27 per kg.	Not sold.
2. Rice	Rs. 6.90 per kg.	Rs. 7.80 per kg. (permal rice)
3 Sugar	Rs. 9.05 per kg.	Rs. 13.80 per kg.
4. Palmolein Oil	Rs. 29.5 per Ltr.	Not sold.

(b) Action against hoarders and blackmarketeers for violations of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and control orders issued thereunder, are taken by State Governments/ UT Administration. During the year 1994, as per reports received from States/ UTs. 4846 persons were prosecuted and 4078 persons were convicted for such violations. Details of individual cases are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) No such specific instance has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(e) In view of replies to (c) and (d), Question does not arise.

Proposal to establish autonomous consumer councils

7578. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 5806 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th May, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government will consider establishing autonomous consumer comcils in every State in addition to the existing consumer courts to keep a watch on prices of essential commodities, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) There is no proposal with the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution to establish autonomous consumer councils in any State to keep a watch on prices of essential commodities.

(b) Does not arise.

Fair Price Shops in the country

7579. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Fair Price Shops in the country as on 31st March, 1995, State-wise; and

(b) the percentage of total population of the country covered by these shops, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The number of fair prices shops, state-wise, as reported by Government/UT Administrations, is given in Statement. (See below)

(b) As per the present policy of the Central Government coverage of Public Distribution System (PDS) is universal in nature and the entire population in a State is covered by the Fair Price Shops and the PDS in that State.

Statement

Number of Fair Price Shops as per reports received from States/UTs.

State	Total	Reported As on
Andhra Pradesh	397972	Dec. 93
Arunachal Pradesh	865	Dec. 94
Assam	27522	Sep. 93
Bihar	51828	Dec. 93
Goa	578	Jun, 94